

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 29, 2008 the Office noted that claims 1, 4-9 and 11-19 were pending and rejected claims 1, 4-9 and 11-19. Claims 1, 9 and 19 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, claims 20-22 have been added, and thus, in view of the foregoing claims 1, 4-9 and 11-22 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Office's rejections are traversed below.

FORMALTIES

The undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner for his time in holding an interview for the present Application. The Applicants have amended the claims consistent with the discussion held at the Interview.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 6-9, 11-12 and 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sonksen, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0046429 in view of Kawai, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0122424. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument and amendment.

Sonksen discusses a packet processing apparatus

implemented in a plurality of pipeline stages or a group of stages configured for a particular operation.

Kawarai discusses an interface device that is used to accommodate packets from a high-speed line efficiently and to reduce a processing load on a back stage caused by routing control.

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to further recite "wherein the change in the length of said information of said data packet (100) comprises at least one of: adding to the length a value representing a length of a portion of the at least one of the dummy header (305) and dummy tail (310) of said intermediate data packet (315), the portion storing information of the communications system, and subtracting from the length a value representing a portion of said intermediate data packet representing empty information after said processing." (Emphasis added). Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in Figs. 3a-3d; 4a-4d; the paragraph spanning pages 6 and 7; and the first paragraph of page 8 of the Specification. Claims 9 and 19 have been amended in a similar manner to claim 1. The Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the amendment to the claims.

The prior art of record fails to disclose upon information being stored in a portion of the dummy header or tail of an intermediate packet, the length of information in the

intermediate packet is updated to reflect the portion of the dummy header and/or tail containing the stored information.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Sonksen and Kawarai, taken separately or in combination, fail to render obvious the features of claims 1, 9 and 19 and the claims dependent therefrom.

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sonksen in view of Kawarai in view of Hultsch WO 99/60708. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument.

Hultsch adds nothing to the combination of Sonksen and Kawarai as applied against the independent claims. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Sonksen, Kawarai and Hultsch, taken separately or in combination, fail to render obvious the features of claims 4 and 5.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sonksen in view of Kawarai in view of Lee, U.S. Patent No. 6,996,117. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument.

Lee adds nothing to the combination of Sonksen and Kawarai as applied against the independent claims. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Sonksen, Kawarai and Lee, taken separately or in combination, fail to render obvious the features of claim 13.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sonksen in view of Kawarai in further view of Song, U.S. Patent No. 5,818,894. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument.

Song adds nothing to the deficiencies of Sonksen and Kawarai as applied to the independent claims argued above. Therefore, the Sonksen and Song, taken in separately or in combination, fail to render obvious claim 14.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### NEW CLAIMS

Claims 20-22 are new. Support for claims 20-22 may be found, for example, in Figs. 3a-3d; 4a-4d; the paragraph spanning pages 6 and 7; and the first paragraph of page 8 of the Specification. The Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the inclusion of claims 20-22. The prior art fails to disclose that change in position of said information of the data packet comprises subtracting from the position, a value representing a length of the portion of the dummy header containing the information of the communications system.

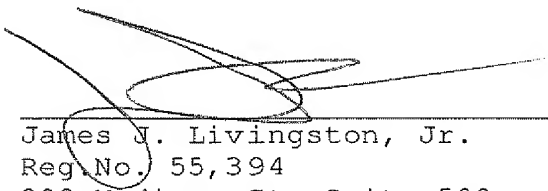
SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 103. It is also submitted that claims 1, 4-9 and 11-22 continue to be allowable. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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